

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application 10/659,263
Attorney Docket No. Q77329

Art Unit No. 2629

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1-3 have been amended to include the label of --PRIOR ART--.

Attachment: Three (3) Replacement Sheets (FIGS. 1-3)

REMARKS

General remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

Objections to the Drawings

Figures 1-3 have been objected to because of alleged informalities. Applicants have amended Figures 1-3 to add the label of --PRIOR ART--. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have editorially amended claim 4 to improve clarity. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Saegusa et al.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Saegusa et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,175,194; hereinafter “Saegusa”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, the claimed invention relates to:

A method for driving a display panel in which discharge cells are formed at intersections between a plurality of row electrode pairs corresponding to display lines, and a plurality of column electrodes intersecting with said row electrode pairs, said display panel being driven in sub-fields, each field of a video signal being constituted by a plurality of said sub-fields, wherein:

each of at least two successive sub-fields including a leading sub-field includes a selective write addressing step for setting said discharge cells to a lighted discharge cell mode by applying a scan pulse to one row electrode of said row electrode pair while applying a data pulse corresponding to said video signal to said column electrode thereby selectively causing a writing discharge in said discharge cells;

the sub-fields following said at least two sub-fields include a selective erasure addressing step for setting said discharge cells to an unlighted discharge cell mode by applying said scan pulse to one row electrode of said row electrode pair while applying the data pulse corresponding to said video signal to said column electrode thereby selectively causing an erasing discharge in said discharge cells; and an emission sustain step for applying sustain pulses to said row electrode pairs thereby causing a sustain discharge to be repeated a number of times corresponding to a weighting of that sub-field only in said discharge cells that are in said lighted discharge cell mode;

the last sub-field of each field includes a first erasing step for inducing a first erasing discharge between said column electrode and one of the row

electrodes of said row electrode pair belonging to said in only discharge cells that have been set to said unlighted discharge cell mode in said selective erasure addressing step; and a second erasing step for inducing a second erasing discharge between the row electrodes of said row electrode pair belonging to said in only discharge cells that have been set to said lighted discharge cell mode in said selective write addressing step, said first erasing step and said second erasing step being performed immediately after said emission sustain step.

The Examiner maintains that Saegusa discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention. However, Saegusa fails to disclose or suggest such a sub-field sequence comprising, *inter alia*, a sub-field including a selective write addressing step and a sub-field including a selective erasure addressing step, as recited by claim 1.

Saegusa discloses sub-fields SF1-SF4 as shown in Fig. 5, each of which includes a pixel data writing step. In Saegusa's pixel data writing step Wc, an erasing discharge is occurred in order to selectively switch each discharge cell from a lighted discharge cell mode to an unlighted discharge cell mode in accordance with a video signal (column 6, lines 47-55).

However, Saegusa fails to teach or suggest the "selective write addressing step for setting said discharge cells to a lighted discharge cell mode by applying a scan pulse to one row electrode of said row electrode pair while applying a data pulse corresponding to said video signal to said column electrode thereby selectively causing a writing discharge in said discharge cells," as claimed. In other words, this exemplary embodiment of the invention includes a selective write addressing step in which the writing discharge is occurred in order to selectively switch each discharge cell from the unlighted discharge cell mode to the lighted discharge cell

mode in accordance with the video signal. Saegusa fails to teach or suggest this particular element of a selective write addressing step, as recited by claim 1.

Furthermore, Saegusa also fails to teach or suggest such a second erasing step as recited by claim 1. Fig. 5 of Saegusa discloses an all-resetting step Rc for causing reset discharges in all discharge cells (column 6, lines 2-4). However, the recited second erasing step of the claimed invention is “for inducing a second erasing discharge between the row electrodes of said row electrode pair belonging to said discharge cells that have been set to said lighted discharge cell mode in said selective write addressing step, said first erasing step and said second erasing step being performed immediately after said emission sustain step,” as recited by claim 1. Saegusa does not at all disclose or suggest such a second erasing step which causes erasing discharges only in the discharge cells which are in the unlighted discharge cell mode. Accordingly, in the present invention, charge formation states in all discharge cells become uniform so that an erroneous discharge is restricted.

As described above, the all-resetting step Rc of Saegusa is quite different from the second erasing step as recited by claim 1.

At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicants' claim 1 distinguishes over Saegusa. Applicants' claim 4 is a related independent method claim which recites similar elements, and is distinguished over Saegusa for analogous reasons. Applicants' claims 2-3 and 5-6 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 4 respectively, which as established above, distinguish over Saegusa. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are distinguished over Saegusa for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their

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additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

Conclusion and request for telephone interview

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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